

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15-17 are allowed.

To expedite prosecution, claims 5, 6, 10, 12 and 14 are canceled without prejudice, with applicant retaining the right to file divisional and/or continuation applications thereon, as appropriate.

Claim 2 has been amended to overcome the objection to it. Because claim 9 depends on claim 2, the objection to claim 9 has been obviated by the amendment to claim 2.

The specification has been amended to overcome the objection to it. The substitute specification does not include new matter.

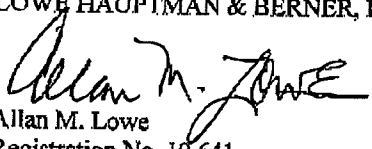
Since all pending claims are allowed or allowable and the objection to the specification has been obviated, allowance is in order.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP


Allan M. Lowe
Registration No. 19,641

USPTO Customer No. 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
Date: May 1, 2006
AML/tal